

# Digital Ship

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www.thedigitalship.com

## Maersk Tankers to deploy CommBox on 70 vessels

Maersk Tankers is to install KVH's CommBox network management technology on 70 vessels in its fleet, taking the total number of its vessels employing the system to 120

**M**aersk Tankers is to install the CommBox communications management system from KVH aboard 70 vessels.

This group of 70 ships is in addition to 50 existing CommBox-equipped vessels that joined the Maersk fleet following its acquisition of Broström tankers in 2010.

The system will be used on the 120 vessels for least cost routing and to coordinate file transfers, e-mail, and internet access for both

business and crew use.

"Maersk Tankers is the largest product tanker owner in the world, and as such, they recognise the need for dynamic network management onboard commercial vessels," said Morten Aasen, managing director of KVH Norway AS.

"The CommBox is the right solution for these vessels - it will allow Maersk captains and IT managers to closely monitor use of each vessel's onboard satellite communications

systems, ensuring good performance at a reduced cost."

"With the CommBox QuickWeb and QuickCrew software modules, internet access increases, which benefits crews in their leisure time. In addition, crews get floating e-mail accounts that will travel with them even if they switch vessels."

### Acquisition

The CommBox was originally developed by Norwegian company Virtek, which was acquired by KVH in September 2010 for \$6.5 million.

Martin Kits van Heyningen, KVH CEO, said at the time of the acquisition that he believed "the capabilities offered by Virtek's CommBox technology (would) complement and expand the comprehensive satellite communication concept that is at the heart of the TracPhone V7 and mini-VSAT Broadband solution."

At that time Virtek was supplying the technology to approximately 50 different shipping companies, primarily based in Scandinavia and Northern Europe, with about 700 vessels installed and estimated revenues for 2010 of between \$2 million and \$3 million.

Since that deal however, and after announcing this new deal with Maersk, KVH has been able to confirm that it has now increased this number of units in the market by

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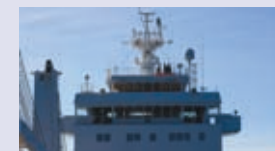
Maersk Tankers is to increase the number of vessels in the Group using the CommBox to 120. Photo: Maersk

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inmarsat iridium THURAYA Globalstar GSM 3G EDGE WIFI WiMax VSAT E-MAIL - DATA SYNCHRONISATION - INTERNET - INTEGRATION - REMOTE CONTROL - ANALYSIS TOOLS - 24/7 SUPPORT - MAXIMISED USE OF BANDWIDTH The Maritime Communications Experts™



## "One Unique Interface"

- Pietro Amorusi, Chief Information Officer, d'Amico Società di Navigazione S.p.A.

From its headquarters in Rome, d'Amico Società di Navigazione S.p.A. operates more than 40 cargo ships in a worldwide trade. The ships are equipped with a combination of Inmarsat Fleet, FleetBroadband and VSAT systems.

"We faced numerous challenges managing our ships due to the diversified communication structure. Dualog Connection Suite is a single and unique interfacing tool," says Pietro Amorusi, CIO of d'Amico. "The new solution has directly improved our efficiency and, it saves us money."



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## Transas: new FleetViewOnline and 3D VTS module

www.transas.com

Transas has announced the launch of a new version of its FleetViewOnline (FVO) service, and an upgraded vessel tracking system (VTS) featuring 3D technology.

FleetViewOnline is a security protected web-based tracking system displaying a vessel's position, which includes a free automatic identification system (AIS) tracking feature.

The AIS Tracking feature allows the reception of additional AIS DPRs once a vessel is in an area covered by the AISHUB service. If an area is not covered by the AISHUB service any available free AIS data source for the area can be connected to FVO and then will be added to the AISHUB coverage area.

AIS and satellite position reports can be integrated into one track or presented separately.

Transas claims that this AIS tracking functionality enables a more effective use of FVO zone alarms, that warn staff or trigger ship agents' activity.

An FVO Tracking and SSAS service application for Android based smartphones is also being developed, which is currently available as a beta version.

Transas' upgraded 3D vehicle tracking solution (VTS) module for Port Operations is designed to provide the operator in port with a full-scale 3-dimensional view of the navigational situation in the VTS area, based on AIS sensor data.

The simulated 3D VTS picture, based on real-time VTMS data, enables the operator to observe the navigation situation from a variety of different perspectives: from the viewpoint of the ship's navigator

and pilot or in a so-called 'flight mode'.

Position, direction, zoom, height and tilt of the camera can be adjusted to enable a better overview.

Transas says that it aims to provide the operator with the same view available to the ship's bridge officers and pilot, to offer additional support to decision-makers on board in situations of limited or restrained visibility.

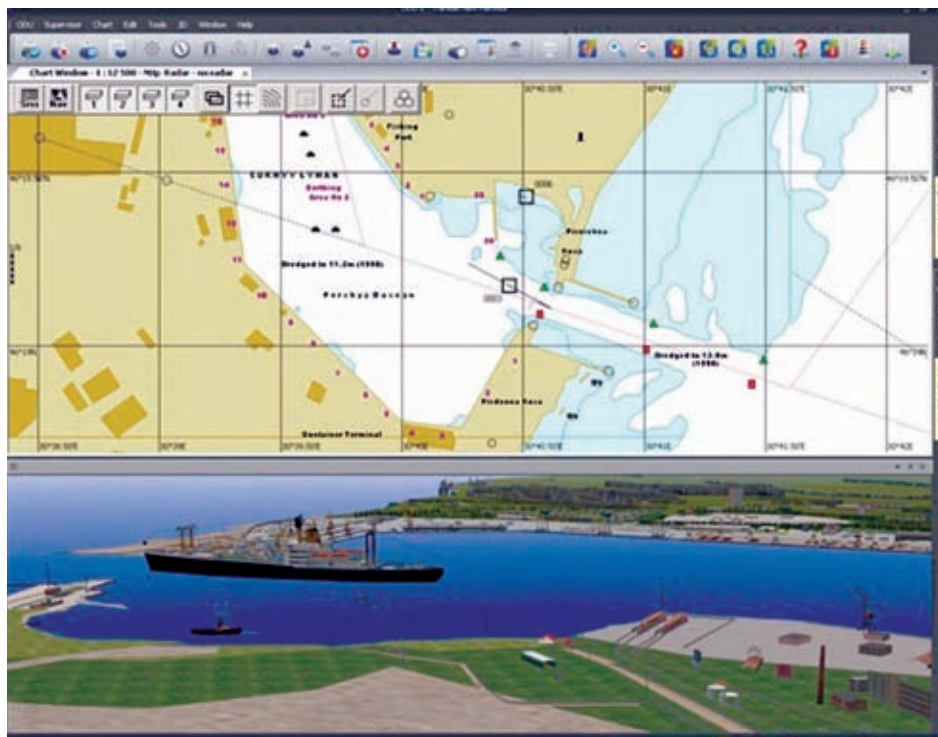
In other news, Transas and its Global ECDIS Training Network (GET-Net) partner Interschalt Maritime Systems AG have been awarded Flag State approval from Germany for their generic ECDIS training.

Transas Marine and Interschalt jointly

offer combined generic and type specific courses. The course has been certified by Germanischer Lloyd (GL) and follows the IMO Model Course 1.27.

The ECDIS training is based on a GL certified training course which follows the ECDIS IMO Model Course 1.27 and adheres to the requirements of the Manila Amendments to STCW.

Transas notes that it will continue to expand its GET-Net programme, having recently welcomed Marstal Navigationskole, a nautical learning institution from Denmark, and PT. Promacindo, an Indonesia based nautical training institute, as new partners.



Transas' new VTS module provides port operators with a 3D view of the navigational situation

## ECDIS deal for Indian Coast Guard

www.maris.no

MARIS reports that it has secured a deal to supply ECDIS installations to 36 high speed Interceptor Boats to be built at the Larsen & Toubro shipyard for the Indian Coast Guard, with a further option for another 18 vessels.

Larsen & Toubro (L&T) Limited will build the vessels at its new yard in Chennai, near Ennore. The order represents the first deal secured by L&T from India's Ministry of Defence.

The order is expected to be completed by 2013, and involves the supply, installation and commissioning of the MARIS ECDIS900 SmartLine Mk10 Flat Panel Computer with PC Radar Kit, with radar overlay and radar/ARPA, on board the newbuilds.

"We have successfully marketed the MARIS SVDR float free and Pilotmate software, but now our relationship has grown and we have established MARIS as a key supplier for ECDIS in India," commented Nafeesa Moloobhoy, managing partner of MARIS representative A.S. Moloobhoy & Sons, India.

"Winning this particular order has been a matter of great pride for Moloobhoy's".

In other news, MARIS has also announced a new agreement with weath-

and performance systems supplier GAC-SMHI Weather Solutions, whereby the two companies will integrate the MARIS Voyage Decision Support (VDS) system and GAC-SMHI's weather routing advice and shore-based fleet monitoring software systems.

The MARIS VDS offers logging, storage, communication and display functionality, and ECDIS-related functionality such as route planning. The VDS can also

be used as an ECDIS back-up.

GAC SMHI Weather Solutions provides onboard weather data, including meteorological routing advice and shore-based fleet monitoring and analysing functionalities.

The parties have agreed to cooperate in the development, marketing and sales of an integrated system which marries GAC-SMHI's FleetWeb and VisPer programs to MARIS VDS and ECDIS.

Polish maritime services company Kongsberg Shipmedics has become a wholly owned **Kongsberg Maritime** subsidiary, called Kongsberg Maritime Poland Ltd. A 52 per cent stake in the company had been acquired in 2007 when it was renamed Kongsberg Shipmedics, with the remaining shares purchased in October 2010 - a deal approved by the Polish Commercial Court in December.

**L-3 Valmarine** has appointed John Egil Gilje as vice president and director sales and marketing. Prior to joining the company Mr Gilje worked as director sales and marketing at **Bjorge Marine Automation**.

**UKHO** has announced the appointment of Sandra Rogers as the new non-executive chair. Ms Rogers, who has been

on the UKHO's board for more than eight years having joined in July 2002, has been interim chair since October 2009 and takes up her new position for an initial term of three years.

**Ocean Signal** has appointed **Sartech** as UK distributor for its SafeSea product range. Based in Surrey, Sartech will have core responsibility for strengthening the presence of Ocean Signal's product line in the UK, targeting the commercial sector.

**Ocean Signal** has also appointed **Echomaster Marine** as its dedicated country distributor in Scotland. Echomaster Marine will be responsible for distributing Ocean Signal's SafeSea range which includes the E100/E100G EPIRB series, the S100 SART and the V100

## Sperry announces new contracts

www.northropgrumman.com

Sperry Marine has announced that it has agreed new contracts with oil giant BP, the Swedish Navy and German shipping company Peter Döhle Schiffahrts-KG, for the supply of ECDIS systems, radar and the provision of maintenance services, respectively.

Under the terms of its deal with BP, Sperry has supplied electronic chart display and information systems (ECDIS) to 12 BP oil tankers.

Four VisionMaster FT ECDIS workstations were installed on each of the 12 ships for full ECDIS redundancy, supplementing existing Sperry Marine integrated bridge system installations, including radars, autopilots and gyrocompasses.

The British-flagged Bird-class vessels were originally built for BP in Korea by Samsung Heavy Industries. The 115,000 deadweight ton double-hull 'ice-class' Aframax ships typically transport crude oil or heavy lubricant oils worldwide.

In Sweden, Sperry Marine has won a contract to upgrade the navigation radars on five Swedish navy patrol boats, and will retrofit each ship with two dual-band interswitched chart radar systems.

The initial contract includes five ships with options for six additional ships, plus a spare system, spare parts, service and maintenance.

CA Clase Marinelektronik AB, Sperry Marine's sales and service representative in Sweden, will be responsible for installing, commissioning, testing and technical support for the project.

Meanwhile, Sperry's one-year contract with Peter Döhle and HAMMONIA Reederei (a joint venture between Peter Döhle, HCI Capital AG and GE Transportation Finance) covers the provision of worldwide service and maintenance for more than 135 ships.

Sperry Marine will be responsible for all shipboard service, support and maintenance of the ships' navigation and communication equipment, including repairs, spares management and required annual inspections and certifications.

Sperry says that it will coordinate onboard service from its Hamburg, Germany, service centre, utilising its network of over 250 service locations.

GMDSS Handheld Radio.

**AMVER (the Automated Mutual Assistance Vessel Rescue System)** has launched a new monthly podcast called the Quarterdeck, where AMVER's Benjamin Strong and USCG Admiral James Watson discuss search and rescue and other topics of interest to mariners. The podcast can be found at <http://amveruscg.blogspot.com>, or downloaded from iTunes.

www.kongsberg.com  
www.valmarine.com  
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